

Good Day,

Please support **HB1242** because it protects the fundamental rights of parents and their kids in the state of Maryland.

This bill upholds the fundamental rights of parents to direct the upbringing, education, care, and welfare of their children, which has been under attack this session in certain proposed legislation.

Parents demonstrably have the highest vested interest in their children's welfare and are best equipped to make important decisions for their children regarding their care.

The state provides remedies for rare cases in which children are living in circumstances of abuse and neglect. There is no context in which it's necessary or appropriate for the state legislature to pass laws which undermine or usurp the authority of all parents, the vast majority of whom provide much better care and decision-making for their children than the state is capable of providing.

The Supreme Court ruled in 1979: "Most children, even in adolescence, simply are not able to make sound judgements concerning many decisions, including their need for medical care or treatment. Parents can and must make those judgements."

Thank you,  
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